

# COMPLAINT PROCESS

Refer to 2016 Book of Discipline for specifics

Bishop contacts protective services if victim is a child or vulnerable adult

**BISHOP INITIATES OR RECEIVES WRITTEN & SIGNED COMPLAINT**  
 Supervisory Response Begins (§ 362)  
 (90 day time period; extendable for 30 days)

Bishop informs BOOM Chair a complaint has been received and the general nature of complaint (§ 362.1b)

Bishop informs complainant & respondent in writing of the process (§ 362.1a)

**BISHOP (or Designee) INTERVIEWS COMPLAINANT**  
 may have support person present (§ 362.1b)

**BISHOP (or Designee) INTERVIEWS RESPONDENT**  
 may have support person present (§ 362.1b)

**BISHOP DECIDES \***

Supervisory follow-up and healing at any point in process (§ 362.1f)

Refer to Counsel for Church (appointed by Bishop) (§ 362.1e(2); 2704.2a; 2708.7)

OR

Just Resolution Process may begin anytime in the process (§ 362.1c)

OR

Dismiss with consent of Cabinet; insufficient evidence (§ 362.1e(1))

Counsel for Church Prepares and Signs Complaint (§ 2704.2b)

Refer to Committee on Investigation (§ 2704.2; 2706) \*\*

Return to Bishop for dismissal or referral for administrative action or Just Resolution (§ 2706.5c)

Prepares/signs bill of charge

Trial (§ 2707-11)

Appeal (§ 2715-16)

Suspension during process (clergy retain rights in §334 while on suspension)  
 \* §362.1d / By Bishop with recommendation of BOOM Executive Committee; up to 120 days  
 \*\* §2704.2c / By Bishop on recommendation of Committee on Investigation